

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

Yes, because there are currently alternatives to using devices such as Tivo and ReplayTV which can be assembled from commodity hardware at a lower cost (both fixed and variable) than those devices.

Restricting recording to a 'trusted' device will limit my ability to have a solution which works for me.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?

Yes, if I have a 'trusted' device such as a Tivo or ReplayTV, I would like to be able to move archival material to bulk storage on commodity equipment. A broadcast flag requirement essentially ties me to buying a Tivo or Replay with more storage. Good for Tivo, but bad for my budget.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

Yes. See answers to one and two. In addition it interferes with independent producers ability to create and distribute content.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Yes. It is a regulatory burden which shifts costs onto developers and allows the FCC and broadcasters to 'pick winners' instead of market forces and the creativity of developers.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

If licensing is restrictive or proprietary, yes. In addition, the costs of compliance with such rules will be passed on to consumers. These burdens will not help this market.

Other Comments:

I believe it is out of the FCC's scope to be in the business of making rules for content management, and runs into the dangerous ground of prior restraint to demand that someone be somehow 'credentialized' to create digital works.